

City of Mexico Beach Special Meeting Minutes

THURSDAY AUGUST 17, 2023 – 5:00 PM

The City of Mexico Beach City Council met in a special meeting on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 5:00 pm at the Public Works Building in Mexico Beach. Mayor Miller and the following Councilmembers were present: Richard Wolff, Jerry Smith, Linda Hamilton and Adrian Welle. Also present were Interim City Administrator, Mell Smigielski, City Clerk, Tammy Brunson and Attorney, Clint McCahill.

I. **Call to order:** Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

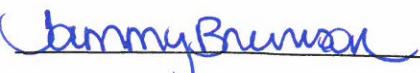
II. **Citizens Comments:** Opened at 5:01 pm –*George Gill* expressed concern about rushing to hire Mr. Hubbard. *Cindy Jolly* stated she would prefer to wait to find the right fit. She read an e-mail response from a councilmember about their reason for supporting Mr. Hubbard. *Gary Woodham* gave his support for Mr. Hubbard. *Bubba Harmon* spoke of the history of the city and supports Mr. Hubbard. *Tim King* talked about his history with Mr. Hubbard. *Alex Hogan* agreed the hiring process was flawed, but everyone needs to come together. *Al Cathey* asked if there was unity amongst Council on how a new Administrator will be dealt with. *Connie Reisinger* spoke in support of Chris Hubbard. *Jack Mullins* was delighted when he heard of the hiring of Chris Hubbard. *Bobby Pollock* spoke highly of Chris Hubbard and that Council need to work together. *Carol Bonanno* stated those who are working together are doing a good job and she will pray for those exhausted by trying to put one over on the others. *Diane Kenney* said she votes for Chris Hubbard. Closed 5:25 pm.

III. **Regular Agenda:**

1. Review and action on City Administrator agreement with Chris Hubbard was brought to the table. Discussion at that table was around education, experience, counteroffer, salary range, changes to the contract, hiring process, Mr. Hubbard's interview, employee conduct, and background checks. Mayor Miller suggested that since Mr. Hubbard declined their offer and counter offered that this is an opportunity to proceed with additional interviews. She also stated she thinks the vote to hire someone should be a super majority of 4 yes votes. Mr. Wolff motioned, and Mr. Smith seconded to accept Mr. Hubbard's counteroffer with a salary of \$105,000.00, 16 weeks' severance pay, no city vehicle and \$6,000.00 in moving expenses. Motion passed with a 3 to 2 vote. No votes were Mayor Miller and Mrs. Hamilton.
2. Review and action on Director of Finance counteroffer was brought to the table. Discussion at the table included moving expenses, salary increase, Ms. Lucas's job performance, reports being late, not filed or done incorrectly. Mr. Wolff motioned, and Ms. Hamilton seconded to termination the contract with Ms. Lucas as quick as possible pursuant to the contract and move forward with looking for an accounting firm. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Adjournment:** Mr. Welle motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 pm.

By: 
Mayor, Michele Miller

Attest: 
City Clerk, Tammy Brunson